THE

HALIFAX PHILATELIC MAGAZINE.

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Speculative Stamps.

FIRST PAPER.

BY THE EDITOR.

PHILATELY has degenerated of late years and the reason is not very far to seek. The general run of approval sheets sent out to day are filled with the most miserable class of truck, and teem with the speculative label in all its several forms. Packets are beneath our invective. There are a few firms (and they are the saving grace of our pursuit), whose sheets are a pleasure to obtain, but these, alas, are small in number Collectors are largely to blame for the unfortunate state of modern collecting, for they pass by the twenty-five per cent. sheet and give the preference to the widely advertised fifty per cent approvals. No reputable firm can supply reputable stamps at fifty per cent.—we commend this statement to the consideration of our readers. Sheets for beginners can, it is true, be prepared at fifty per cent. discount from catalogue, but for the average collector it is folly to stick to the cheap truck that is dished out at half Scott.

In reviewing these dark days of philately, we must not overlook the fact that Messrs. Scott themselves are due a share of the blame. Collectors have gotten to look to Scott's Catalogue as an absolutely correct index of the value of stamps, and we are bound to say that we don't think Messrs. Scott have always acted in the best interests of collectors. There is too much booming, and a too great increase in the catalogue valuation of stamps. Every year the divergence between the catalogue price and the actual supply-and-demand value is widening. And it is this ever upward movement in price that is continually working mischief both for the dealer who sells and the collector who buys—it is the jugernaut that is the cause of more than one of the many ills that has fallen on our hobby.

The issuance of speculative stamps by little two-cent governments is fraught with most serious danger to philately. These governments will sell you their stamps unused at a fraction of face; they will sell them cancelled to order; or they will surcharge them while you wait. They are very obliging and all that—they aim to please. Many large dealers (who should be shunnned by collectors as a pestilence) take

advantage of the opportunities offered by the petty states, and enter as equal partners with them in schemes for the enrichment of themselves to the detriment and loss of the community at large.

True, Messrs. Scott have a little corner in their catalogue where they pretend to consign the speculative, fraudulent and unnecessary issues, but what a farce it is! Why single out a few dozen of such issues and leave *a hundred* of similar nature in the body of the catalogue purporting to be legitimate issues? Why not do the thing honestly and thoroughly, and brand the Seebeck's and the miserable commemorative issues, and the unnecessary values and all of that ilk, by their true name?

"I am not philatelist enough to put Seebeck's in my album," said a prominent philatelist to the writer a few months ago. What a world of wisdom is expressed in this quaint assertion. Were all other collectors like you, Mr C., philately had been better off. A man who would collect Seebeck's would collect discarded liver pads. The Seebeck evil is one the greatest we have to contend with, and it is pleasing to note that the tide of public opinion is setting steadily against it.

So imminent and pressing has the danger become, that prompt action seems necessary. A determined effort would stamp out the speculative hydra. If no Seebecks, remainders, or speculative issues were admitted on the exchange books of our societies, and if publishers refused to print advertisements offering such for sale, success would be assured. The means for giving speculators in postal issues their quietus lies right in the hands of the philatelic community; if they know their own interests, and act upon this knowledge, the matter is settled.

With this spectre laid, philately could progress on a healthy basis, and could reasonably expect a rapid evolution in the right direction.

The Conventions.

THE result of the Dominion Philatelic Association convention was the election of the Muirhead Ticket by good majorities, the only defeat being that of Mr. Bishop in his candidature for Vice President of the United States. This is the Association's loss, not Mr. Bishop's and we regret very much that a better choice was not made. The vote was taken by proxies, a very unsatisfactory method. As a result of this method, the vote was small. With the exception of Mr. Severn, the other side was very much not in it; a practical backdown was made before the Convention, owing to inability to get candidates. No readable account of the Convention has as yet appeared, and we are forced to go to press without same. The

Convention was harmonious throughout. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. A. H. Adams (in which we heartily concur) for the efficient manner in which he handle l the Secretary's office during his term. We trust Mr. Graham, the newly elected Secretary will prove a worthy successor to Mr. Adams.

The P. S. of A. convention resulted in the triumph of the redoubtable Kissinger and his satelites. New York was chosen for '98 convention seat by a fair majority, a fact that will greatly injure the society. The Convention we are informed decidedly lacked the snap and go of former years. Of the 143 proxies present, Mr. Kissinger and his man Mr. McDermott held 78, which constitutes a majority. The popular secretary, Mr. Beamish, who is a Kissinger man held 15 more, while Mr Herbst of the N. Y. Philatelist claimed 25. The election of Mr. Green was expected, and a good thing. If there is anything that will help the P. S. of A to live through another year, it is Mr. Green's department

Halifax, 1898.

The Metropolis of Eastern Canada wants the D. P. A. Meet.

NOMINATIONS are asked for next year's Convention Seat of the Dominion Philatelic Association, and Halifax has been named. The numerous attractions of Halifax make it a peculiarly fit place for the Convention, and we trust it will receive the hearty support of the members. Our climate in summer is that of paradise. It is freely acknowledged by our Upper Canadian friends that Halifax is justly entitled to next year's Meet, for have we not on two other occasions gracefully yielded to the wishes of other cities? With a population in the present year of grace, in the city alone, of 48,534, not to mention the adjoining town of 7,000 people, we feel that we can entertain visitors to the Convention very nicely. Anyone with a liking for war and the habiliments thereof (we detest such things ourselves), can find here such a mixture of big guns, forts, battleships, and military playthings, that cannot be equalled elsewhere. Come to Halifax and see the forrest of masts, and the *H. P. M.* building; come and see Bunthorn, J. Holt, and Inspector Banks. Vote for Halifax 1898, and a grand good time with the extras is assured.

IS the A. P. A. alive or dead? It's strange, but half the members I don't know what the name of the organization is. The coming grand spectacular convention will no doubt settle the matter.

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HALIFAX PHILATELIC MAGAZINE,
Halifax, Nova Scotia.

A. M. MUIRHEAD, ... Editor.
ED. A. WHALEN, ... Associate Editor.

WE meet our readers in somewhat improved form this moneh, and hope to appear promptly on the first of every month hereafter. For whatever of success we have achieved, we are duly grateful, but can stand a little more of it, we think.

* * *

WE should all lend a hand to the saving of the S of P., lately so near dissolution. An unseemly wrangle between Mr Miller the secretary, and Mr. Martin, publisher of the official organ, has diverted us of late, and we are not call'ed upon to settle the dispute. The trustees have appointed the *American Collector* as official organ, and Mr. J. F. Dodge is secretary. Mr. Dodge writes that he has purchased the *American Collector* and will immediately resume its publication. The salvage of the society will therefore rest to some extent with Mr. Dodge, in whom this MAGAZINE has unbounded confidence. The new secretary asks the co operation of the members in his efforts to launch the good old ship once more. The S. of P. was the pioneer exponent of low dues, it lead the way for other organizations to prosper, and now in these stormy times when danger is imminent, let there be no deserting from the greatest philatelic society in America.

* * *

CAN anyone supply us with the address of Mr. Fred Koors? This gentleman placed his subscription with us some months ago, but his letter was mislaid. If anyone will kindly communicate his address, we shall be greatly obliged, and will try and make amends to Mr. Koors for our negligence.

HALIFAX for 1898 D. P A. Convention; there is no other place. We are sorry to see that some of our friends in upper Canada, in defiance of the rights of the east, are trying to patch up a Hamilton boom. or some other kind of a boom The first Convention was at Toronto, the next at Berlin (these places are within sixty miles of each other), and now some people want to have the next Convention next door, too. This is grossly unfair to Eastetn Canada and would be the very worst thing that could happen to the D. P. A. We feel easier after having written the above.

Literary Notes.

THE *Stampman* comes to us and we are glad. Surely, Mr. Osgood, you are one of the several editors of the *Stamp*, which was wont to make things hum in the old days? We have no papers now to fill the place of the *Stamp*, the *Figaro*, and others of that brilliant company that made philately interesting a short decade ago, and would it not be a good thing if Mr. Osgood would again come forth, and add vitality to our decadent journalism?

IF there is one thing we admire it is enterprise, and that is one of the things that makes our rival the PHILATELIC ADVOCATE an ever welcome visitor. As a paper it is not perfect, but any imperfections are lost sight of in our admiration for the pluck and perseverance displayed by Messrs W A Starnaman and F. I Weaver, in putting out their paper each month with a regularity, which almost makes us jealous.

A PAPER we dont see very often is the *All-Around Stamp Advertiser*, which is a year old, and alive yet. That well-known stamp man Ant. R. Valee of St. Hyacinth, Que. puts it out and if he would only send two copies in exchange each month it would tickle us immensely.

A NEW power has arisen in the philatelic land and its name is "*Perforator*." We note a disposition on its part to get larger each month, and if this tendency is not restrained some other journals will have to look to their laurels. The August number is mostly in nonpareil, and has a grand lot of up-to date reading; coupled with a quantity of righteous indignation. Its way up, old man, do it some more.

THE Columbian Philatelist continues to give the greatest fifteen cents worth on the continent, and ever and anon is adding societies to its official organ list. Nothing succeeds like success, you know, and this journal looks very much like a clear case of success.

About Stamps.

IT is about decided now, that still another Canadian issue will appear shortly. The new set will supercede both the Jubilees and the old issue, and will be permanent We suppose that Queen Vic's head will be used as a centrepiece, but there is the possibility however, that some National emblem will be utilized.

* * *

THE new Newfoundland set is the craze now, and people are actually trying to speculate in them As there are quite enough to go round, with some over, it look as if speculators will get left. Orders addressed to the Postmaster General of Newfoundland will be filled, and in view of this the rush would seem nonsensical.

* * *

IT is within the bounds of possibility that Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Salvador will be united in the near future under the name of The United States of Central America This should be welcome news to philatelists, as it will mean less stamps being issued. By all means let the U. S of C. A. be accomplished.

* * *

IN view of the recent decline in the plate numbers mania not much attention is being paid to the plate numbers of the Jubilee stamps. We have seen some numbers chronicled in the press, but Canadian collecctors do not pay much attention to such. This craze never had much of a following here.

* * *

WE don't hear much now about that Nova Scotia remainders business. It was rumored lately that the people interested in this little game have been negotiating to sell out their interest. We do not place much reliance on this story, one reason being that no dealer in Canada or the United States would care to give such a price for what remains as would enable the Ramainders people to get out whole.

* * *

VERY few finds of pence issue Nova Scotia are made now a days Time was, when one could look up his grandfather's letters and get rich, but that time has gone by.

* * *

THE reprints of the 1880 issue of Newfoundland, were prepared by the Government for a local dealer. There being slight differences in color, he refused to accept them and they were placed on sale.

Local Hits.

MR CHARLES BLACKADAR of the *Acadian Recorder*, and well-known in Hailfax newspaperdom, announces his intention to rejoin the ranks of philatelists. The H. P. M. trusts that Mr. Blackadar will carry out his intentions, and participate in the Philatelic Revival that is arising in Halifax at the present time.

* * *

MR. JAMES H PECKHAM has lately returned from a trip to Boston, Providence, New York, and returning by way of Montreal. While his trip was not strictly a philatelic one, he met a good many stamp men, and reports a high old time.

* * *

NOTICES are being sent around to local collectors, that a meeting will be held on Sep. 2nd, for the purpose of organizing a local club in this city. All the old stamp men have promised to be present.

OUR friend the *Revista de Whatdoyoucallit* from Argentine comes regularly to hand. We are sorry, brothers, but you will have to talk louder, for we cannot make out a word you say. Judging from mere appearance we should say that this is a first-class journal.

WHAT is the matter with the C. P. A. reorganization? We have not heard anything about it for months. Surely something could have been accomplished ere this to revive Canada's first philatelic organization. This Magazine is always ready to aid in any movement for the welfare of philately- is there anything we can do for you, Mr. Wurtele?

WE admire the spirit of brother Tausig in declaring for "Omaha 1898" Situated as he is, in the midst of the New York contingent, it required considerable disinterestedness on his part, to declare for Omaha in preference to his own town. The western people have rightly earned their right to the convention, and their efforts should be rewarded. The "Herald Exchange" goes up one point in our estimation.

E. T. PARKER, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania,
Has sixty sets of Persia, 1889 issue, the catalog value of which is $3 58. Twenty-five of these sets he will sell for 50 cents a set, then ten sets for 75 cents a set, then ten sets for $1 a set, and the remaining sets for $1 25 each. This offer is made solely to increase the circulation of his price-list, and each person sending for a set must accompany the order with the names and addresses of at least five collectors.

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The TIME

To get a set of the new CABOT ISSUE of Newfoundland Stamps. A complete set will be sent postpaid and registered for only $3.22. Stamps are in mint state.

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2c green	4
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2c registered vermillion	5
5c registered, unused	8
Jubilee, 5 varieties, unused	20
do. do. used	15

United States.

1851, 3c rose, per 10	5
1869, 2c brown	8
1869, 3c blue, per 10	8
1872, 6c red	2
1872, 10c brown, per 10	15
1882, 5c brown, per 10	5
1893, 4c ultramarine, per 10	10
1893, 5c chocolate, per 10	15
1893, 10c brown, per 10	15
1894, Dues 1, 2, 3 unused	10

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2c, two copies on ent. orig. env. pen cancelled	90
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12c, puce, fine	12
12c, puce, fine pair	25

Just look up the catalogue and compare prices.

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